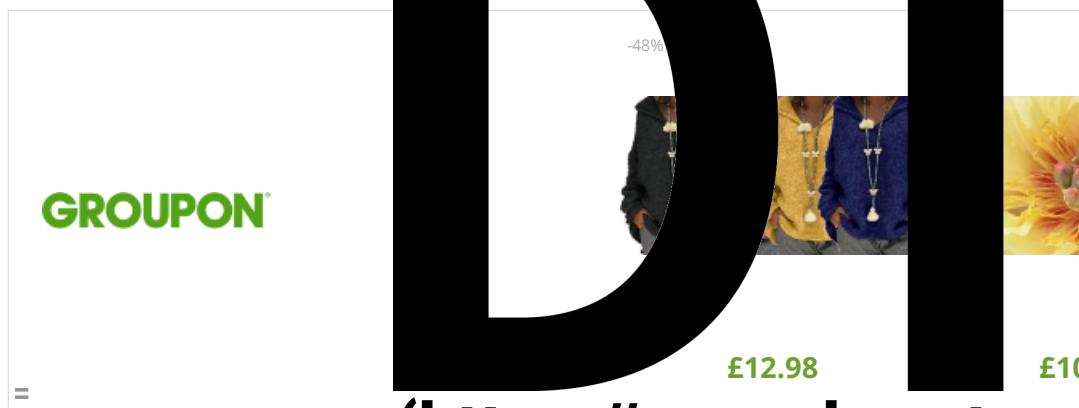


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SHOCKING SHELL



Published: Monday 30 November -0001

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Alfred Donovan became a grandfather decades before he became ubiquitous. But the 62-year old and his son John, 62, have been a painful thorn in the side of Royal Dutch Shell for more than a decade. The pair run one of the oldest and most effective gripe sites about the company, www.royaldutchshellplc.com.

The site is so successful that Russian officials and US investigators have used it. Journalists know the site receives juicy leaks from Shell employees and search it for stories. Since setting up his first anti-Shell site in 1995, Donovan estimates he has published 24,000 articles about the company, most of them online.

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Now Donovan says he is helping US investigators look into the award of oilfield drilling licences by providing them information leaked to his website.

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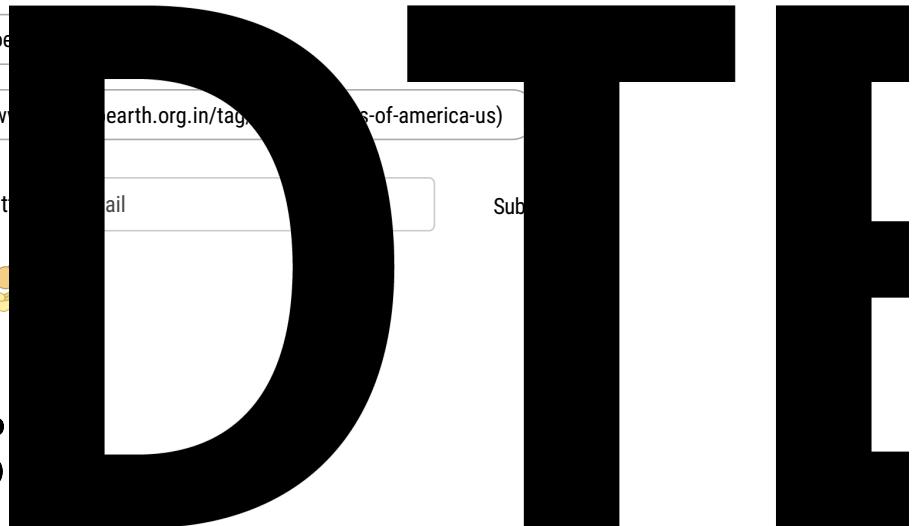
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Post COVID-19, ILO calls for national-level policy on those working from home

There is an urgency to adopt global labour standards and improve national-level labour registries for home-based workers, organisation says in its new report



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By Kiran Pandey (<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/author/kiran-pandey-2699>)
 Published: Thursday 14 January 2021

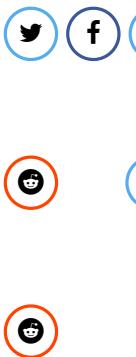


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The report focussed on three types of home-based workers: Artisanal ones like beedi workers, teleworkers and digital workers. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

There is a need to develop effective policies for home-based workers and ensure their proper implementation even as the practice had increased since the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said in a new report.

Just 10 countries (https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/de/f?p=1000:11300:0::NO:11300:P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312322) had ratified the Convention on Homework nearly 25 years since it was

 adopted by the International Labour Conference June 20, 1996, the ILO report said.

Few governments have taken the initiative to bring in policies to protect home-based workers. In India, despite the report titled *Working from home: From invisibility to decent work*, those working from home, especially in low-income countries, continued to work in poor working conditions.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were approximately 200 million home-based workers worldwide, contributing 7.9 per cent to global employment. Of these, 56 per cent or 112 million were women, according to the report.

The report talked about three main types of home-based workers:

- Industrial home-based workers, who are involved in the production of goods including artisinal production, such as rolling of handicrafts, rolling of *beedis*, making of clothes, etc
- Teleworkers, who use computers and other communication technologies to perform their work remotely
- Home-based digital platform workers, who are ‘crowdworkers’ that perform service-sector tasks as specified by end-users or intermediaries

Despite contributing significantly to the economy, home-based working had remained “invisible”, the report said.

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It also noted that the propensity of women to work from home — 11.5 per cent — was much higher than that of men (5.6 per cent).

The report highlighted the plight of industrial home-based workers, citing the state of 2.5 million women rolling *beedis* (leaf cigarettes) in India. These were among the “poorest workers in the world of work” and worked in pathetic and unsafe conditions, the report said.

ILO's recommendations

Governments need to play a major role to protect home-workers, ILO said. It strongly recommended them to adopt a national policy on home-based work.

It called upon governments to develop and implement a gender-responsive legal and policy framework that provided equal treatment for all categories of home-based workers in relation to other wage earners.

-    This included facilitating the transition of informal workers to formal employment.  ([https://api.whatsapp.com/send?text=SHOCKING SHELL](https://api.whatsapp.com/send?text=SHOCKING%20SHELL))
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The report also said how home-based workers need to be counted to record their earnings, hours worked and other conditions of employment.

The labour registries needed to be revised to incorporate “place of work” and count those industrial workers who went missing from poor labour registries. Few countries had labour inspection schemes adapted for home-based work, the report noted.

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The report called for better compliance, legal protection, occupational safety and social security for industrial home-based workers.

It said teleworkers were at the risk of working overtime and hence recommended the “right to disconnect” on their behalf.

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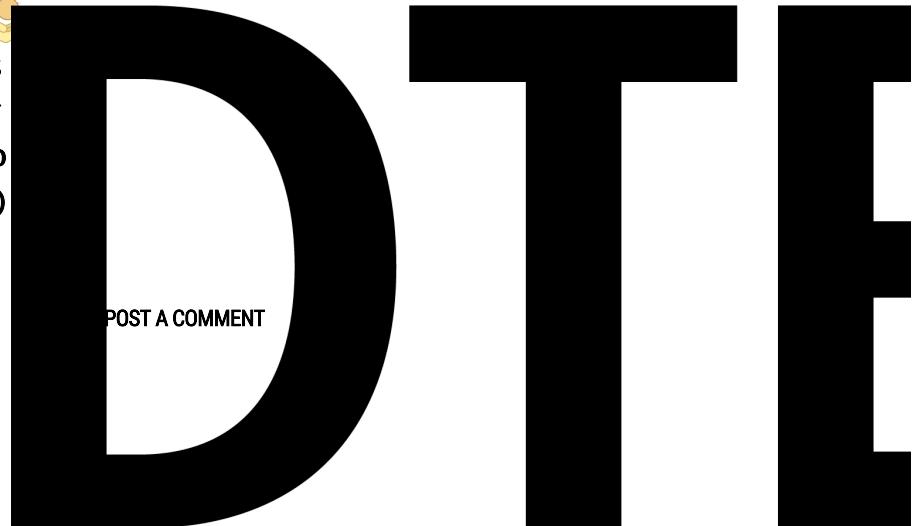
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